

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7526

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4340

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: ADS--DECEMBER 25, 1975

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: FORD-SUHARTO MEETING

REF: JAKARTA 3705

1. PRESIDENT'S APRIL 10 SPEECH CONTAINED SENTENCE "...I HAVE ALREADY SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH LEADERS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA."

2. ANTICIPATING THIS COULD RESULT IN PRESS QUERIES IN BOTH JAKARTA AND WASHINGTONRE PLANS FOR FORD-SUHARTO MEETING, WE CALLED THIS SENTENCE TO IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF MINISTER OF STATE GENERAL SUDHARMONO AND ASKED FOR PALACE VIEWS ON BEST WAY HANDLE ANY PRESS QUERIES.

3. SUDHARMONO SAID PALACE WOULD PREFER HANDLE ANY PRESS QUERIES IN GENERAL WAY AND AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE TIME OR PLACE OF FORD-SUHARTO MEETING. HE SUGGESTED QUERIES BE HANDLED--ON STRICTLY IF ASKED BASIS--WITH COMMENTS TO FOLLOWING EFFECT: THERE ARE STILL SOME POINTS ABOUT A MEETING WHICH REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT BY DISCUSSIONS IN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING (A) IF ABOVE SATISFACTORY TO WASHINGTON AND (B) HOW WASHINGTON PLANS HANDLE QUERIES RE FORD-SUHARTO MEETING.

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NEWSOM

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